

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claim 1-19 were pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 6, and 8, and canceled claim 4. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-19 will be pending. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Siegel et al. (U.S. Patent 5,548,718) in view of D'Souza (U.S. Patent 6,453,468). On the other hand, claims 17-19 were allowed and claims 4-7 and 16 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

To advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have incorporated the allowable features of claim 4 into independent claims 1 and 8. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Siegel et al. in view of D'Souza, thereby placing all of remaining claims 1-3 and 5-19 in condition for allowance.

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In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

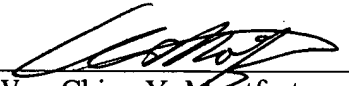
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Respectfully submitted,

VOAS ET AL.

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